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Denali Training Fund Quarterly Progress Report

Funds for this project are provided by the USDOL and the Denali Commission and managed, in partnership, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Name of Organization: Communities In Schools Career Exploration Opportunities
Name of Project: Career Exploration Opportunities EN# 796138 377-I File 9-301
Reporting Period: From April, 2009 – Thru June 30, 2009
Contact Person: Jim Utter, CEO Manager
Contact Number: 333-4003/243-7101 Email Address: jutter@alaska.net
Expenditures to date: \$126,500.00
Certification: I certify that the information in this report is current, correct and true and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.
Signed by: Jim Utter Dated June 30, 2009

1. In a few sentences, please describe the scope of your project:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Mission of CEO is to encourage students to stay in school, enhance their education, and assist them in making informed career choices and to prepare them for success in the workforce of tomorrow.2. This is a statewide innovative initiative conducted via Internet and video conferencing (VTC). The VTC happens twice a month – Internet connection is daily. Website http://ceo.cisalaska.org
2. Project Activities for this Reporting Period: Describe the grant activities that happened during this report period. Include planning, advertisement and/or training performance that occurred this quarter? List any accomplishments achieved. (Attach advertisements if applicable)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>April 09</u> – A monthly CEO email newsletter continues that informs the network about updated happenings within CEO and spotlights on-site reports highlighting student accomplishments.

The CEO program has daily Internet connectivity to the school districts, schools, CEO on-site teachers and the enrolled students. All of the CEO video teleconferences (VTC) are held every other Wednesday – 10:30 – 11:30

4/1 – At this VTC, Johnny Tyson from Alaska Job Corp and Katy Parrish from 21st Century Learn, Earn and Serve Academy presented student opportunities

4/15 – Student and on-site Teacher CEO Evaluations were distributed – results are in an attachment to this document

– Students continued to report on their Career Projects and Job Shadows

4/29 – Students concluded their reports and Evaluations were collected

• May 13 – This was the concluding session of CEO VTCs – the Industry focus was Transportation presented by TOTE. Farewells, Best Wishes and a closing statement from the CEO staff – plus one from Esther Cox, Chairperson of the Alaska School Board Association

The rest of the May and June was spent by the CEO staff in summarizing, evaluating and planning for the next school year

• June 3 – CEO held its End of the Year Recognition & Celebration. The CEO support network was invited. The program was held at GCI from 11:30 to 1:00.

- **Special Recognition and Thanks** was given to our Financial Support Network – The Denali Commission, BP of Alaska, Wells Fargo, GCI and AT&T.

3. Scheduled Project Activities/Important Dates for next quarter:

Describe your planned activities and training for next few months. Please include important dates like graduation, site visits, travel, job fairs, etc.

Throughout June and July, the CEO staff will be evaluating and planning for the next school year. Fine-tuning adjustments will be made. This will also be a time to solidify the CEO support system and identify new partners.

CEO EVALUATIONS On April 15, evaluations were distributed to all students and on-site teachers for their assessment of the CEO program. These evaluations will be used to critique and improve the CEO program for the coming academic year.

• **See attachment of the evaluation summary.**

• The all-new CEO Advisory Board was identified. Strategic Planning and discussion will begin with the first scheduled meeting in September of 2009.

As CEO grows, we need additional input from both the education and business community to insure what is offered is relevant and important to students across Alaska.

Career Exploration Opportunities

STUDENT & ON-SITE TEACHER ASSESSMENT

April – 2009

Following are questions asked of the CEO Students and their responses:

1. My work habits have improved in timeliness and completion of assignments
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 46%
 - b. Neutral 45%
 - c. Disagree 9%
2. My achievements (grades school related) have improved
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 58%
 - b. Neutral 42%
3. I have a greater understanding of and familiarity with resources to assist me with my career and future training
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 79%
 - b. Neutral 17%
 - c. Disagree 4%
4. I am more comfortable using technology, i.e. computers, videoconferencing Internet resources, complex software/Moodle etc.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 76%
 - b. Neutral 24%
5. I have learned useful knowledge and skills through CEO
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 88%
 - b. Neutral 12%
6. My communication presentation skills have improved
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 63%
 - b. Neutral 37%
7. My general attitude about school has improved
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 62%
 - b. Neutral 30%
 - c. Disagree 8%
8. I am motivated to continue with training or college after high school to expand my career success
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 79%
 - b. Neutral 13%
 - c. Disagree 8%
9. I have a more positive outlook about my future
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 80%
 - b. Neutral 17%
 - c. Disagree 3%

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|--|-----|
| 10. I am better prepared to apply for jobs of interest | |
| a. Strongly Agree/Agree | 92% |
| b. Neutral | 8% |
| | |
| 11. I think more about how my decisions and actions now will affect my career and future | |
| a. Strongly Agree/Agree | 83% |
| b. Neutral | 17% |
| | |
| 12. CEO is a meaningful and relevant program for me and other students | |
| a. Strongly Agree/Agree | 79% |
| b. Neutral | 17% |
| c. Disagree | 4% |
| | |
| 13. The curriculum was interesting | |
| a. Strongly Agree/Agree | 62% |
| b. Neutral | 30% |
| c. Disagree | 8% |
| | |
| 14. Use of the Internet in teaching CEO is an effective tool for career development | |
| a. Strongly Agree/Agree | 76% |
| b. Neutral | 12% |
| c. Disagree | 12% |

Questions 15 & 16 asked for some short statements – following is a sampling:

15. In your experience, what was the most valuable part of CEO?
- The most valuable part of CEO to me was that I was given the opportunity to really think about the kind of career that I want in the future. I hadn't really given it much thought until I joined CEO and had to research the different kinds of careers I might want in the future. That is when I found out that there are so many other careers that I would enjoy and be good at besides nursing. CEO has really opened my eyes to other career opportunities.
 - To see all the people who have different jobs (guest speakers) and hear what they have to say about them – and whether they like them or not.
 - The career projects, job shadows, and the guest speakers. Those were the best for me.
 - The professionals that come and talk to the students about their career. Meeting new people from different parts of the state and learning something new.
 - The ability to use videoconferencing as an alternative and more interactive way to communicate.

- The most valuable part of CEO is when my friends and I got to go to Anchorage to job shadow at the many awesome places such as police, UAA, and every where else. Also the teachers of CEO are the most 'awesomeest' teachers in the world. (Scammon Bay Group)
 - Experiencing all the choices we can make for our future goals or plans we would like to fulfill.
 - To me, the most valuable part of CEO is understanding and becoming aware of what the future has to offer as far as possible careers. Also, listening to and speaking with many guest speakers placed in various jobs around the state of Alaska was awesome.
16. List anything that you would like to see changed or added to the program to make it more beneficial to students.
- Maybe a real training career program...like not a computer
 - "The Force is strong Sky Walker"
 - I can't really think of anything that I would like to see changed about CEO. Everything that I have done in CEO has been beneficial to me and my classmates.
 - It is pretty much good the way it is!! I definitely liked everything about the program!! Keep it going!!
 - Funnier Activities
 - I feel that everything was great. This is my first year in this class and it was a wonderful experience. Maybe we should have had this class when we first started High School.

Following are questions asked of the CEO On-Site Teachers and their responses:

1. Students improved their attendance and punctuality habits
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 70%
 - b. Neutral 30%
2. Students improved their achievement (grades and school related activities)
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 60%
 - b. Neutral 40%
3. Students increased their commitment to finish High school
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 50%
 - b. Neutral 50%
4. CEO provides students with relevant career information and resources so they can more easily and effectively plan for next steps in their career search.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 100%

5. CEO helps engage students in the prime industry opportunities for Alaskan Careers.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 100%
6. CEO is an effective (e-learning/virtual learning via Moodle) tool for career exploration development.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 100%
7. CEO helps students gain understanding of workplace behavior.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 100%
8. CEO promotes understanding of the negative impacts and workplace consequences of drug and alcohol use/abuse.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 70%
 - b. Neutral 30%
9. CEO helps students learn to communicate and present themselves more comfortably and professionally.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 100%
10. CEO promotes student optimism about their future/career opportunities
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 100%
11. CEO provides resources and relevant activities in career exploration and development.
 - a. Strongly Agree/Agree 100%

Teachers were then asked to respond to the following:

State briefly what you liked best about CEO?

- The time that the students had listening to people who were in the field they were talking about, not just some person who got up and talked about a bunch of different jobs. CEO really engaged our students. In fact, mostly because of CEO, our students took a Career Field Trip to Anchorage and Seward visiting many venues including AVTEC and UAA.
- My students finally found a project that excited them in Service Learning, something they could do and give back to the community.
- The myriad of opportunities made available through videoconferencing and the internet.
- Students learn that they need to be more responsible for completing responsibilities to meet deadlines.
- I like that CEO presents a wide range of job choices and opportunities for our rural students – not just what is in the village community.

If you could change one thing – what would it be?

- Let CEO be a class at our school so the students would have more time to work on Moodle, and do the homework that goes along with being part of the CEO program.
- Have one set grading policy, or system for the entire course. It is almost too flexible to be left up to the individual sites.
- The time that the program has it's VTC – currently it falls within two classes on the IASD schedule.
- Being in the 'Bush', I feel that there should be more presenters who are Native Alaskan. This would give our students examples of successful Native people to look to as a role model and for guidance. It would also make them feel more comfortable during the VTC meetings.

The Mission of the Advisory Board will be to utilize each member's guidance and expertise for CEO's continued positive growth and expansion.

Members are:

Brad Gillespie – Regional Director, AK Job Centers; Shawn Aspelund – Materials & Warehouse Manager, BP of Ak; Asta Keller - Assistant VP, Wells Fargo Community Development; Heather Wagner - GCI Manager HR; Joe Banghart - Superintendent, IASD; John Concilus - Coordinator Ed Tech, BSSD; Roy Corral - Photo Journalist, AK Newspapers; Sharon Chriss - NMS HR Manager; Andy Rabung - AT&T Business Development Manager; and Tom Morgan - State Director, CIS of Ak

4. a. How many are in your training program during this reporting period?

CEO has enrolled 8 school districts, 12 sites and 100 students.

b. How many people have been trained and/or certified to date from this grant?

CEO is a year- long program; CEO certificates & academic credit was awarded and recorded for all enrolled students via their on-site teachers – May 2009.

(Please complete form below.)

5. Please complete the list by putting the community to which each individual trained is from, the type of training and certification, the graduation date and who will employ them upon completion of training.

Community where trainee lives	Type of Training/ Service	Type of Certification to be earned/earned	Dates of training	Graduation Date	Employment commitment after training is complete
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• CEO has enrolled High School students, grades 9 - 12 from the following School Districts and sites. Each site has an assigned teacher/mentor that works with the students.

- Iditarod School District – McGrath, Takotna, Grayling, Holy Cross & Shageluk
- Nome School District – Nome High School
- Yupiit School District – Tuluksak
- Lower Yukon – Scammon Bay
- Valdez – Valdez High School
- Dillingham – Dillingham Alternative School
- ASD – AVAIL Alternative School
- Juneau – Juneau High School

• **See attached Excel Spread Sheet for enrolled 2008/2009 students**

Please copy and use another sheet if you need more spaces.

Grantee Name: Community In Schools Career Exploration Opportunities
 File Number: 7-221

Dates of training: Start: 9/1/2008 End: 5/29/2009

School Districts - Iditarod; Nome; Yupiit; Lower Yukon; Valdez and Dillingham

NAME	GRADE	CITY	Post. Sec.	Apprentice	Trng. Acdmy	OJT	Credential(s)	Job	HG Industry Ttl.	Other Info.
Kimberley Akelkok	High Sch	Dillingham								1
Carmen Akerelrea	High Sch	Scammon Bay								2
Corey Akerelrea	High Sch	Scammon Bay								3
Willie Alexi	High Sch	Tuluksak								4
Jimmiann Alexi	High Sch	Tuluksak								5
Nick Alfred	High Sch	Tuluksak								6
Lucy Andrew	High Sch	Tuluksak								7
Kristina Andrew	High Sch	Tuluksak								8
Krisiane Bell	High Sch	Scammon Bay								9
Marche Bender	High Sch	Valdez								10
Michael Bennett	High Sch	Dillingham								11
Lonny Booshu	High Sch	Nome								12
Toria Chaffin	High Sch	Valdez								13
Loren Chandler	High Sch	Scammon Bay								14
Wendy Chandler	High Sch	Scammon Bay								15
Trezanne Charlie	High Sch	Scammon Bay								16
Baily Christenson	High Sch	Valdez								17
Aleshia Cranor	High Sch	Valdez								18
Andrew Deacon	High Sch	Grayling								19
Kimberly Dorman	High Sch	Valdez								20
Paul Dunham	High Sch	Valdez								21
Britni Ezell	High Sch	Valdez								22
Cassie Flynn	High Sch	Takotna								23
Abbie Flynn	High Sch	Takotna								24
Jake Flynn	High Sch	Takotna								25
Laura Fox	High Sch	Takotna								26
Jessie Fox	High Sch	Takotna								27
Monte George	High Sch	Takotna								28
Harley Johnston	High Sch	Nome								29
Ryan Goods	High Sch	Takotna								30
Tyler Goods	High Sch	Takotna								31
Casey Graham	High Sch	McGrath								32
Jamie Hamilton	High Sch	Shageluk								33
Stephanie Hanson	High Sch	Valdez								34
Kyle Hardin	High Sch	Dillingham								35
Erik Harris	High Sch	Nome								36

6. Please identify any problems or changes in your training project that will affect the budget, scope or timeline of the project. Is your training on schedule? What are the reasons for any difficulties or delays? Are you over budget/under budget? Have you had to change the initial scope?

- CEO completed its curriculum and all VTCs on schedule
- A problem that CEO faces each year is the identification of our on-site teacher/mentor. This is left up to the school to assign a person. Sometimes the choice that is made is not in the best interest of the CEO program nor the enrolled students. We will continue to work on this issue by providing a more in-depth description of on-site teacher responsibilities and working with on-site Principals who make the decision of who to place in that role.
- CEO completed the program on budget
- CEO did not change the initial scope

Please provide an explanation to this change and your resolution to the variance.

7. How are you or will you be evaluating the individuals being trained to ensure competency, skill level and understanding? (Testing, assessment, etc)

- The on-site teachers evaluate the CEO students as they would in a regular classroom. The students receive grades according to their effort and level of proficiency. They gain experience in career exploration, job preparation skills, job shadows, career projects and earn credit toward graduation.
- Students and teachers have an on-going opportunity to assess the CEO program for its value and relevancy. CEO also provides this assessment opportunity to the CEO support system (business participants)
- In April, students and teachers completed an evaluation of CEO in hard copy form. (a summary is attached)

8. Please identify areas that we can assist you in the future.

- Nearly every student in Alaska has access to a computer. The CIS CEO program is a unique innovative distance education blended-learning program. We can reach all corners of Alaska, providing educational enhancement and career exploration for the students through their schools regardless of where they are. Without CEO, these opportunities would NOT be available.
- Through the Denali Training Fund, financial support was appropriate for CIS CEO to continue providing and expanding this opportunity to rural Alaska – assisting our students to become familiar with a relevant learning tool that opens the window of knowledge and opportunity beyond their local classroom and community.

- CIS CEO successfully completed its fifth year of operation. The interest among school districts continues to grow. With that increased interest will come an increased need in financial assistance to support its growth.
- School Districts signed up for 2009/2010 include Lower Yukon, Dillingham, Kodiak, Nome, Anchorage, Juneau, Valdez, Yupiit, Cordova, Southeast Island and Pelican – within these school districts, CEO will have between 16 to 18 sites and enroll between 150 – 175 students
- My perspective is that within a few short years, CIS CEO could be serving a student cliental of 500 in 25 school districts. To support this successful program there will need to be an increase in business participation – both financially and in-kind.
- The CEO Advisory Board was created to assist this growth and development. The CEO Advisory Board will begin its duties in September of 2009.
- As CEO continues to grow, the goal will be to increase the ratio of financial dollars from Alaskan businesses in relation to dollars from grant awards. CEO's ultimate goal is to become more self-sufficient and depending on its success, to encourage greater participation and support from the Alaskan business community.

• **EXAMPLE OF A CEO SUCCESS STORY:**

The Scammon Bay CEO students were new to the program this year. They became so interested and involved that they planned and carried out a trip to Anchorage in April. Under the leadership of their two on-site teachers, Melissa Rivers and Scott Davies, fourteen students raised money, arranged career oriented visits and generally put together a fact-finding tour. They visited, interviewed, did job shadows and researched the following: AVETEC, Wells Fargo, Alaska Construction Academy, Tastee Freez, Calista, Coastal Village Corp., Anchorage Police Department, Alaska Native Health Center, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Bayshore Elementary, Beans Café, H-2-0 Oasis, Sea Life Center and UAA. They returned home and put together a video of their experiences, which can be viewed on the CEO public/home website starting in August – ceo.cisalaska.org

- We are proud of all of our CEO students, their accomplishments and knowledge gained about their future and potential careers.

Jim Utter
CIS CEO Manager
6/30/09